

**Statement of
Jill Smith
President and Chief Executive Officer
DigitalGlobe**

Before the

**Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics
Committee on Science and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives**

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Mr. Chairman, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to appear before you today on behalf of DigitalGlobe to discuss the applications and benefits of remote sensing data.

DigitalGlobe was founded on the principal that remote sensing data, specifically that acquired through satellite and aerial imaging capabilities, can change the way organizations conduct business and how governments protect their constituencies. Today more than ever, we at DigitalGlobe are seeing some of the unique ways businesses are improving their efficiency and streamlining business processes. We are also seeing increasing use by governments on emergency response planning, urban development and environmental monitoring.

DigitalGlobe's customers range from defense and intelligence entities to civil agencies supporting land development and emergency response to companies providing consumer applications, including personal navigation services, and internet portal tools.

There are several advantages of being headquartered here in Colorado, from the synergies that are created by having the second largest aerospace industry in the nation, to enjoying the benefit of having a robust GIS and remote sensing industry located here. Another important advantage is the ability to partner with several of the country's best academic institutions for developing relevant technological talent and the lifestyle that allows us to attract the best people.

State and local government agencies, including those in Colorado, use remote sensing data to meet the requirements of many essential public service projects. Towns, cities and counties rely on remote sensing data to understand the makeup of their areas for tax assessment, public works and public safety applications. In Colorado, it is particularly valuable for agricultural monitoring, wildfire risk assessment, and watershed mapping.

At the same time, users at the National level utilize remotely sensed data for a variety of purposes. Specifically, certain U.S. Government defense and intelligence agencies supply their users with unclassified, commercial data for homeland security, national defense and intelligence programs. Availability of commercial satellite imagery has provided the government with flexibility in how it gathers intelligence, conducts surveillance, and manages ground, air and naval forces. Because commercial imagery is unclassified, it can be shared across organizations and agencies, across domestic users and with allies, coalition forces and humanitarian aid workers to facilitate coordination. Remote sensing data can help to speed decision-making for military planning and in-theater activities and for emergency response activities. The remote sensing data provided by satellite imagery provides the capability to conduct detailed reconnaissance and subsequent extraction of critical information on targets.

In addition to the military uses, remote sensing data can be very valuable to civilian homeland defense efforts, including mapping potential fire, flood, hurricane or earthquake paths; monitoring the expansive U.S. borders both land and sea; and identifying possible breaches of secure and protected high-risk facilities such as nuclear plants and seaports.

One of the key enablers of the broader use of commercial remote sensing data has been the continued support of the U.S. Government. The 1992 Land Remote Sensing Policy Act set a baseline for the licensing and operation of commercial remote sensing space systems and is still in effect today. And more recently, the Commercial Remote Sensing Policy of 2003 and the 2006 U.S. National Space Policy have the stated objective of creating a “dynamic, globally competitive domestic commercial space sector in order to promote innovation, strengthen U.S. leadership, and protect national, homeland and economic security¹”. We believe the policies encourage the U.S. Government to: (a) rely to the “maximum practical extent²” on U.S. commercial capabilities, (b) “refrain from conducting activities that preclude, deter, or compete with U.S. commercial space activities³”, (c) “develop a long-term, sustainable relationship⁴” between the U.S. Government and U.S. industry, and (d) provide a “timely and responsive regulatory environment⁵” for licensing the operation and export of remote sensing systems.

Congress has been a consistent and vocal supporter of U.S. defense and intelligence use of commercial remote sensing data through the ClearView and NextView programs. These programs have helped the U.S. Government provide an increasing amount of commercial

¹ *U.S. National Space Policy* (2006)

² *U.S. Commercial Remote Sensing Policy* (2003); *U.S. National Space Policy* (2006)

³ *U.S. National Space Policy* (2006)

⁴ *U.S. Commercial Remote Sensing Policy* (2003)

⁵ *U.S. Commercial Remote Sensing Policy* (2003); *U.S. National Space Policy* (2006)

imagery to the warfighter, intelligence analyst and relief worker every day. The industry looks forward to continuing to work with Congress to ensure continuity of programs such as these well into the future.

While we believe there is widespread Congressional and Executive branch support for the growth of the commercial remote sensing industry, many obstacles nevertheless exist. U.S. Government advocates must remain vigilant that the enabling tenets laid out in the 1992 Act, and the 2003 and 2006 policies continue to have support. In particular, it is important that the U.S. Government continue to maximize its use of commercial imagery, ensure a regulatory environment that promotes the commercial imagery business, and enable U.S. industry to continue to be competitive in the global imagery market.

We believe the benefits of commercially available remote sensing data are significant and that the industry is only beginning to develop potential applications.

On behalf of DigitalGlobe, I would like to thank the Congress, especially this subcommittee and Congressman Udall, for your support from the earliest days of the industry into the future. That concludes my testimony. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Jill Smith

Jill is a veteran corporate leader with a long history of strategic management and successful brand building. She was President and Chief Executive Officer of eDial, a collaboration software company that she successfully turned around and sold to Alcatel. Prior to leading eDial, she was Chief Operating Officer of Micron Electronics, Inc., a \$1.5 billion direct PC manufacturer and marketer. While at Micron, Jill drove the PC business to profitability, and grew HostPro, Micron's award-winning web hosting division, into the third-largest web and application hosting company, and a candidate for an IPO. Prior to Micron, Jill co-founded and led Treacy & Company, LLC, a successful boutique consulting and investment business that was merged with an Internet consulting firm, and was Chief Executive Officer of SRDS, L.P., a private publishing and printing company that she successfully repositioned and established as an electronic publishing leader. Her earlier experience includes executive positions at Sara Lee Corporation and Bain & Company, where she was a Vice President. Jill holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the MIT Sloan School of Management.